

NOTICE OF FEDERAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Federal Agency Name: AmeriCorps
Funding Opportunity Title: Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Ohio AmeriCorps Grants
Announcement Type: Initial Announcement
Assistance Listing Number: 94.006

Disclosure: Publication of this Notice of Federal Funding Opportunity (Notice) does not obligate ServeOhio to award any specific number of grants or to commit any amount of funding. The actual level, timing, and process of grant funding will be subject to the availability of annual appropriations.

Important Dates

- Applications are due not later than **Wednesday, April 5, 2023, by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time.**

Applicants proposing to operate AmeriCorps programs in multiple states must apply directly to AmeriCorps for funding.

Multi-state applicants are not eligible to apply to ServeOhio. Go to www.AmeriCorps.gov for more information.

- Successful applicants will be notified after **May 12, 2023.**
- Successful applicants will be issued awards by **mid-July 2023.**

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FULL TEXT OF THE NOTICE

A. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

A.1. Purpose of AmeriCorps State and National Funding

AmeriCorps improves lives, strengthens communities, and fosters civic engagement through service and volunteering. AmeriCorps brings people together to tackle some of the country's most pressing challenges through national service and volunteerism. AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers serve with organizations dedicated to the improvement of communities and those serving. AmeriCorps helps make service a cornerstone of our national culture.

AmeriCorps grants are awarded to eligible organizations (See Section C.1 [Eligible Applicants](#)) proposing to engage AmeriCorps members in evidence-based or evidence-informed interventions/practices to strengthen communities. An AmeriCorps member is an individual who engages in community service through an approved national service position. Members may receive a living allowance and other benefits while serving. Upon successful completion of their service, members earn a [Segal AmeriCorps Education Award](#) that they can use to pay for higher education expenses or apply to qualified student loans.

Please see the AmeriCorps Focus Areas in [Appendix I](#).

A.2. Funding Priorities

AmeriCorps recently released its [2022-2026 Strategic Plan](#) which defines the agency's goals, objectives, and strategies to both meet and exceed the agency's mission to improve lives and strengthen communities.

Over the next five years, ServeOhio and AmeriCorps will invest in existing and new partnerships with nonprofit, faith-based, and Tribal organizations to get things done for America. We will prioritize investment in the most critical issues of our time – public health, climate and the environment, and education and economic opportunity – within AmeriCorps' Focus Areas ([Appendix I](#)) and we will increase our efforts to ensure our AmeriCorps members reflect the communities where they serve. We will target our investments toward communities where the need is greatest, particularly those with populations that face racial inequality and poverty. These steps will enable more Americans than ever to strengthen the communities that need it most across the nation through their service.

Ohio AmeriCorps priorities for this funding opportunity are:

- Organizations leading service in communities with concentrated poverty, rural communities, tribal communities, and those organizations serving historically underrepresented and underserved individuals, including but not limited to communities of color, immigrants and refugees, people with disabilities, people who identify as part of the LGBTQIA+ community, people with arrest and/or conviction records, and religious minorities.
- Programs that create workforce pathways for AmeriCorps members, including deliberate training, certifications, and hiring preferences or support.
- Activities that support educational opportunity and economic mobility for communities

experiencing persistent unemployment or underemployment, and students experiencing homelessness or those in foster care.

- Efforts to increase access, information and/or resources to safe, healthy, affordable, and/or more efficient housing.
- Programs that reduce and/or prevent prescription drug and opioid abuse; Increase access to health information/knowledge, resources and/or services; Improve individual and/or community health conditions.
- Programs that improve the quality of life of veterans and improves the well-being of military families, caregivers, and survivors.
- Rural intermediary organizations that demonstrate measurable impact and primarily serve rural communities with limited resources and organizational infrastructure.
- Efforts to mobilize volunteers to meet regional community needs utilizing ServeOhio's Get Connected platform.

Additionally, ServeOhio seeks to develop a diverse portfolio of programs that includes:

- Diverse geographic representation and distribution of resources.
- Unique service models that engage members in meaningful service and reflects the communities being served.
- Organizations committed to National Service as a solution.

To receive priority consideration, applicants must show that the priority area is a significant part of the program focus and intended outcomes and must include a high-quality program design. Proposing programs that receive priority consideration does not guarantee funding.

A.3. Performance Goals or Expected Outcomes

National Performance Measures

AmeriCorps expects applicants to use National Performance Measures as part of a comprehensive performance measurement strategy that relies on both performance and evaluation data to learn from their work and make tactical and strategic adjustments to achieve their goals.

All applications must include at least one aligned performance measure (output and outcome) that corresponds to the proposed primary intervention. This may be a National Performance Measure or an applicant-determined measure. For more information, please refer to the [National Performance Measures Instructions found here](#).

A.4. Program Authority

Awards under this Notice are authorized by the [National and Community Service Act of 1990](#), as amended, ([42 U.S.C. §12501 et seq.](#))

B. FEDERAL AWARD INFORMATION

B.1. Estimated Available Funds

ServeOhio expects a highly competitive AmeriCorps grant competition. ServeOhio reserves the right to prioritize providing funding to existing awards over making new awards. The actual level of funding is subject to the availability of annual appropriations.

B.2. Estimated Award Amount

Award amounts will vary as determined by the scope of the projects.

B.3. Period of Performance

ServeOhio anticipates making three-year grant awards.

The project period is 12 months with a **start date not prior to August 1, 2023**. Applicants may propose any program start date after August 1 that aligns with their program design. ServeOhio generally makes an initial award for the first year of the period of performance, based on a one-year budget.

AmeriCorps applicants may not enroll members prior to the project period start date of the award. AmeriCorps members may not begin service prior to the beginning of the member enrollment period as designated in the grant award. A program may not certify any hours an applicant performs prior to the applicant becoming a member in the system of record and the beginning of the member enrollment period.

Applications are submitted with details for one year (up to 12 months) of program operations including:

- A budget with one year of program expenses,
- Performance measure targets for one year of service activities,
- a total Member Service Years (MSY) for one year,
- a total Member Slot request for one year.

Continuation awards for subsequent years are not guaranteed; they depend upon availability of appropriations and satisfactory performance.

B.4. Type of Award

Award recipients will be assigned to a Program Officer who will be responsible for assessing recipient performance, providing training and technical assistance, and serving as the agency's primary point of contact.

Operating Grants: ServeOhio may award a Cost Reimbursement or a Fixed Amount grant to any successful applicant and reserves the right to offer either a Cost Reimbursement or Fixed Amount grant to any applicant. ServeOhio will not provide both types of grants for the same project in one fiscal year.

ServeOhio Planning Grants: Planning grants are available under the [FY 2023 Ohio AmeriCorps Planning Grant Notice of Funding Opportunity](#).

If applicants submit an operational grant application but not awarded an operational grant and planning grant funding is available, ServeOhio reserves the right to offer prospective applicants a planning grant. Planning grants are only Cost Reimbursement grants and provide no more than \$75,000. Planning grants are used to develop National Service models and build the capacity of organizations to implement a federal AmeriCorps grant. No member slots are awarded with a planning grant. Planning grants are awarded for a single year, and usually only cover minimal personal costs/consultation costs, training, and travel. Full details would be communicated, if awarded.

ServeOhio will not provide a Planning Grant and Operational Grant for the same project in one fiscal year.

Professional Corps applicants are ineligible to apply for Cost Reimbursement grants. See the [C.1. Eligible Applicants](#) section and the [Mandatory Supplemental Information found here](#) for more information, including definitions of terminology. ServeOhio will not provide both types of grants for the same project in one fiscal year.

Grant Types	Cost Reimbursement	Fixed Amount			
Available Subtypes	Traditional	Full-Cost	Education Award Program (EAP)****	Professional Corps See MSI found here for further requirements	No Cost Slots
Maximum Cost per MSY*	\$28,800	\$28,800	\$800 or \$1,000	\$1,000	\$0
Type of Slots in the National Service Trust**	FT, TQT, HT, RHT, QT, MT, AT	FT, TQT, HT, RHT, QT, MT, AT	FT, TQT, HT, RHT, QT, MT, AT	FT Only	FT, TQT, HT, RHT, QT, MT, AT
Budget Submission Required	Yes	No		No	No
Availability of Funds linked to enrollment and retention of awarded MSYs	No	Yes			No
Special Requirements	N/A	N/A		Must place qualified professionals in communities with an inadequate # of such professionals. Member costs must be paid entirely by organization & not included in budget.	N/A
Financial Reporting Requirements	Yes	No			
Available to new Applicants	Yes	Yes***	Yes		

* Member Service Year (MSY): One Member Service Year (MSY) is equivalent to a full-time AmeriCorps position (at least 1,700 service hours). Total MSY is a total of all slot types.

**Types of Slots in the National Service Trust

FT = Full Time member position requires at least 1700 hours of service; 1.0 MSY

TQT = Three Quarter Time member position requires at least 1200 hours of service; .7 MSY

HT = Half Time member position requires at least 900 hours of service; .5 MSY

RHT = Reduced Half Time member position requires at least 675 hours of service; .381 MSY

QT = Quarter Time member position requires at least 450 hours of service; .265 MSY

MT = Minimum Time member position requires at least 300 hours of service; .212 MSY

AT = Abbreviated Time member position requires at least 100 hours of service; .056 MSY

***New applicants may be requested to provide additional documentation. See **New Applicants** below

**** Per [42 U.S.C. § 12581a](#), the Corporation may provide the operational support under this section for a program in an amount that is not more than \$800 per individual enrolled in an approved national service position, or not more than \$1,000 per such individual if at least 50 percent of the persons enrolled in the program are disadvantaged youth.

C. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

C.1. Eligible Applicants

The following non-Federal entities (all of which are defined in [2 CFR 200.1](#)) are eligible to apply:

- Indian Tribes
- institutions of higher education
- local governments
- nonprofit organizations
- states and US Territories

Applicants **must** have a valid SAM registration and Unique Entity Identifier to receive an award. See [Section D.3. Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management \(SAM\)](#) for more information.

New applicant organizations may request as few as **5 Member Service Years (MSY)** annually in their first three-year grant cycle. However, ServeOhio strongly encourages new applicants to request a minimum of 10 MSY. See the Table on page 14 for the various member slot types.

Renewal applicants requesting less than 10 Member Service Years (MSY), without prior authorization from ServeOhio, may not be reviewed or considered for funding.

New Applicants

ServeOhio encourages organizations that have not received prior funding from AmeriCorps to apply.

New applicants requesting a Full Cost Fixed Amount grant may be requested to submit additional documentation and may include a full line-item budget, fiscal management policies or procedures, most recent audit or financial statements, detailed experience with AmeriCorps or federal grants, and/or [the Organizational Management Readiness Assessment](#).

Types of Applicants

1. State and Territory Service Commissions (for Single-State Applicants)

Organizations that propose to operate only in Ohio must apply to ServeOhio. ServeOhio administers its own selection and funding process.

See the [Mandatory Supplemental Information found here](#) for descriptions of National Direct and Single-State applicants.

2. National Direct Applicants¹

Multi-State: Organizations that propose to operate AmeriCorps programs in more than one State or Territory are not eligible to apply to ServeOhio and must apply directly to AmeriCorps. More information is available at www.americorps.gov.

Federally recognized Indian Tribes: Applicants that are Indian Tribes apply directly to AmeriCorps. More information is available at www.americorps.gov.

Threshold Issues

Applications should reflect that they meet the following threshold requirements for the grant type for which they are applying.

- Professional Corps applicants and/or applicants determined to be a Professional Corps by ServeOhio must demonstrate that the community in which it will place AmeriCorps members serving as professionals has an inadequate number of said professionals.
- If the proposed service activities require specialized member qualifications and/or training (for example, tutoring programs: [45 CFR 2522.910-.940](#)), the applicant must describe how the program will meet these requirements.
- All applicants must propose program designs that are either evidence-based or evidence-informed. Applicants assessed as lower than the Preliminary evidence tier (i.e., Pre-Preliminary) must provide adequate responses to the Evidence Quality review criteria in order to be considered for funding.

¹ Although National Direct applicants do not apply to Commissions, there are substantial requirements to coordinate with the Commissions for states in which national service programs will operate. See the [D.7.c. Coordination among State Commissions and National Direct Applicants section](#) for information on these important requirements.

C.2. Cost Sharing or Matching

There is no cost share or matching requirement for Fixed Amount grants. AmeriCorps does not provide all the funds necessary to operate the program, therefore organizations should raise the additional revenue required to operate the program.

Cost Reimbursement Grants

Applicants are required to match funds based on the chart below. The applicant's match can be non-AmeriCorps cash and/or in-kind contributions. Applicants must indicate whether the match is proposed or secured. Applicants must demonstrate the ability to meet the match requirement at the time of application submission. See Section [D.6. Funding Restrictions](#) for more information.

A first-time successful applicant is required to match at 24 percent for the first three-year funding period. Starting with year four, the match requirement gradually increases every year to 50 percent by year ten, according to the minimum overall share chart found in [45 CFR 2521.60](#) and below.

AmeriCorps Funding Year	1, 2, 3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10+
Grantee Share Requirements	24%	26%	30%	34%	38%	42%	46%	50%

Law requires that grantees that use other Federal Funds as matching funds for an AmeriCorps grant to report those amounts and sources to AmeriCorps on a Federal Financial Report [found in 42 U.S.C. §12571\(e\)](#). Successful applicants must track and be prepared to report on that match separately each year and at closeout.

Match Reduction Request

Contact ServeOhio at mary.cannon@serve.ohio.gov for more information on a match reduction request. A request must be submitted with the application and by the due date. The application should be submitted with the required minimum match. If approved, the application will be adjusted later.

Alternative Match

Under certain circumstances, applicants may qualify to meet alternative matching requirements that increase over the years to 35 percent instead of 50 percent as specified in [45 CFR 2521.60\(b\)](#). To qualify, applicants must demonstrate that the proposed program is either located in a rural county or in a severely economically distressed community as defined in the Application Instructions. Applicants who plan to request an alternative match schedule must submit a request at the time the application is submitted.

Ohio AmeriCorps applicants must submit their request to ServeOhio by the application due date. If approved, the request will be submitted to AmeriCorps for consideration. See the [FY23 Ohio AmeriCorps Application Instructions for more information found here.](#)

C.3. Other Eligibility Requirements

Under Section 132A(b) of [the National and Community Service Act of 1990, as amended](#), organizations that have violated a Federal criminal statute may not receive assistance described in this Notice.

Applications that propose to engage in activities that are prohibited under AmeriCorps' statutes, regulations, or the terms and conditions of its awards are not eligible to receive AmeriCorps funding.

Note that under appropriations provisions annually enacted by Congress, if AmeriCorps is aware that any corporation has any unpaid federal tax liability

- that has been assessed;
- for which all judicial and administrative remedies have been exhausted or have lapsed; and
- that is not being paid in a timely manner pursuant to an agreement with the authority responsible for collecting the tax liability;

that corporation is not eligible for an award under this Notice. However, this exclusion will not apply to a corporation that a federal agency has considered for suspension or debarment and determined that suspension or debarment is not necessary to protect the interests of the federal government.

Pursuant to the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995, an organization described in the [Internal Revenue Code of 1986, 26 U.S.C. §501 \(c\)\(4\)](#) that engages in lobbying activities is not eligible to apply for AmeriCorps funding.

D. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

This Notice should be read together with the AmeriCorps regulations, Application Instructions, Performance Measure Instructions, and Mandatory Supplemental Information. These documents are available on [ServeOhio's website here](#).

D.1. Applications Materials

All information associated with this funding opportunity is available on the [ServeOhio website here](#).

D.2. Content and Form of Application Submission

D.2.a. Application Content

Complete applications must include the following elements:

- Standard Form 424 (SF-424) Face Sheet: This is automatically generated when applicants complete the data elements in the eGrants system.
- Narrative Sections:
 - Executive Summary: This is a brief description of the proposed program.
 - Program Design
 - Organizational Capability
 - Cost-Effectiveness & Budget Adequacy
 - Evaluation Summary/Plan
- Logic Model

- Performance Measures
- Standard Form 424A Budget
- Continuation Changes
- Clarification
- Authorization, [Assurances](#), and [Certifications](#)

D.2.b. Page Limits

There are page limits for the Narratives and Logic Model:

- Narratives
 - Applications must not exceed 10 double-spaced pages for the Narratives as the pages print out from eGrants.
 - The application sections that count towards the page limit are the:
 - SF-424 Face Sheet
 - Executive Summary
 - Program Design, Organizational Capability, and Cost-Effectiveness & Budget Adequacy narratives.
 - The application page limit does not include Evaluation Summary/Plan, Clarification Summary, Continuation Changes, Budget, Performance Measures, or any required additional documents.
- Logic Model
 - The Logic Model may not exceed 3 pages when printed with the application from the “Review” tab in AmeriCorps’ web-based management system.

Please note that the length of the application as a word processing document may differ from the length of the document printed out from eGrants. The character limits in eGrants do not align with page limits set in the Notice.

ServeOhio strongly encourages applicants to print out the application from the “Review and Submit” tab in eGrants prior to submission in order to confirm that the application does not exceed the page limit.

ServeOhio will not consider the results of any alternative printing methods when determining if an application complies with the page limit. Material that is over the page limit will not be considered, even if eGrants allows applicants to enter and submit additional text.

D.3. Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM)

All applicants **must** register with the System for Award Management (SAM) at <https://www.sam.gov/SAM/> and maintain an active SAM registration through the application process and project period. If an applicant is awarded a grant, it must maintain an active SAM registration throughout the life of the award. See the [SAM Quick Guide for Grantees](#).

SAM registration must be renewed annually. ServeOhio suggests that applicants finalize a new registration or renew an existing one at least four weeks before the application deadline, to allow time to resolve any issues that may arise. **Applicants must use their SAM-registered legal name and physical address on all grant applications to AmeriCorps. The legal applicant’s name and physical address in eGrants must match exactly the applicant’s SAM-registered information.**

ServeOhio and/or AmeriCorps will not make awards to entities that do not have a valid SAM registration and Unique Entity Identifier. If an applicant has not fully complied with these requirements by the time AmeriCorps is ready to make a federal award, AmeriCorps may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive an award and use that determination as a basis for not issuing an award.

Applications must include an Employer Identification Number.

Applications must include a valid Unique Entity Identifier (UEI), which is generated as part of the SAM registration process.

D.4. Submission Dates and Times

D.4.a. Application Submission Deadline

Applications are due not later than **Wednesday, April 5, 2023, by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time.**

ServeOhio will not consider applications submitted after the deadline, except as noted in [Section D.4.c. Late Applications](#). ServeOhio reserves the right to extend the submission deadline. ServeOhio will post a notification in the event of an extended deadline on the [ServeOhio funding opportunities webpage](#).

D.4.b. Additional Documents Deadline

Additional documents are due by the application submission deadline. See Sections [D.4.a. Application Submission Deadline](#) and [D.7.b. Submission of Additional Documents](#) for more information.

D.4.c. Late Applications

All applications received after the submission deadline published in this Notice, of **Wednesday, April 5, 2023, by 5:00 pm Eastern Time**, are presumed to be non-compliant. To overcome this presumption, the applicant must:

- submit a written explanation or justification of the extenuating circumstance(s) that caused the delay, including:
 - the timing and specific cause(s) of the delay
 - the ticket number if a request for assistance was submitted to the AmeriCorps Hotline
 - any information provided to the applicant by the AmeriCorps Hotline
 - any other documentation or evidence that supports the justification
- ensure that ServeOhio receives the written explanation or justification and any other evidence that substantiates the claimed extenuating circumstance(s), via email to mary.cannon@serve.ohio.gov no later than 24 hours after the application deadline as stated in the Notice.

Communication with AmeriCorps staff, including an applicant's Program Officer, is not a substitute for a written explanation or justification of the extenuating circumstance that caused the delay as outlined above. Applicants are required to continue working in [eGrants, AmeriCorps' web-based application system](#), and with the AmeriCorps Hotline to submit the

application. ServeOhio will determine whether or not to accept a late application on a case-by-case basis.

Applicants that do not meet the application submission deadline and do not submit a written explanation or justification or any other evidence to overcome the presumption of non-compliance within the published timeframe will be deemed noncompliant. If ServeOhio sustains a noncompliant determination, the application will not be reviewed or selected for award.

ServeOhio will *not* consider an advance request to submit a late application. Please carefully review and follow the guidance in this section and submit your application as soon as possible.

D.5. Intergovernmental Review

This Notice is not subject to [Executive Order 12372](#), "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

D.6. Funding Restrictions

D.6.a. Award Funding Requirements

1. Member Living Allowance

A living allowance is not considered a salary, hourly payment or a wage. Programs are not required to provide a living allowance for members serving in less than full-time terms of service. However, ServeOhio recommends programs provide the minimum living allowance listed in the table below. If a program chooses to provide a living allowance to a less than full-time member, it must comply with the maximum limits in the table below.

For Cost Reimbursement grants, the amount must be included in the proposed budget as either AmeriCorps or grantee share. Exceptions are noted below.

While Fixed Amount grant applicants are not required to submit detailed budgets, they are still required to provide a living allowance to members that complies with the minimum and maximum requirements. Exceptions are noted below.

Fixed Amount grant applicants should indicate that amount in the application.

Table: Minimum and Maximum Living Allowance

Service Term	Minimum # of Hours	Minimum Living Allowance*	Maximum Total Living Allowance
Full-time (1.0 MSY)	1,700	\$17,600	\$35,200
Three Quarter-time (.7 MSY)	1,200	\$12,425	\$24,640
Half-time (.5 MSY)	900	\$9,320	\$17,600
Reduced Half-time (.381 MSY)	675	\$6,980	\$13,376
Quarter-time (.265 MSY)	450	\$4,660	\$9,152
Minimum-time (.212 MSY)	300	\$3,105	\$7,392
Abbreviated-time (.056 MSY)	100	\$1,035	\$2,112

**AmeriCorps programs are not required to provide a living allowance to members serving in less than full-time capacity. However, ServeOhio recommends programs provide the minimum living allowance listed in the table above.*

Exceptions to the Living Allowance Requirements

a. Programs existing prior to September 21, 1993, are not required to offer a living allowance. If an applicant chooses to offer a living allowance, it is exempt from the minimum requirement, but not the maximum requirement.

b. EAP Grantees are not required to provide a living allowance, but if a living allowance is provided, it must comply with the maximum requirements set forth in the Living Allowance Table above.

c. Professional Corps Grantees must provide members a living allowance or salary, which must meet the minimum, but may exceed the maximum living allowance set in the Living Allowance Table above. Professional Corps member salaries and benefits including childcare are paid entirely by the organizations with which the members serve; and are not included in the budget request to AmeriCorps (Federal share).

2. Maximum Cost per Member Service Year (MSY)

The AmeriCorps cost per MSY is determined by **dividing the AmeriCorps share of budgeted grant costs (CNCS Column) by the total number of MSYs requested**. It does not include childcare or the value of the education award a member may earn. The maximum amount an applicant may request from AmeriCorps per MSY is determined on an annual basis.

New and recompeting Commission subgrantees/applicants will be held to the maximum cost per MSY for their grant type.

Table: Maximum Cost per MSY

Grant Program	Maximum
Professional Corps Fixed Amount Applicants	\$1,000*
All non-EAP Formula Applicants	\$28,800
Education Award Program (EAP) Fixed Amount Grant Applicants	\$800 or \$1,000**

*AmeriCorps requires **Professional Corps** programs to cover the operating expenses associated with the AmeriCorps program through -non-AmeriCorps resources. AmeriCorps will only consider operating funds of up to \$1,000 per MSY if an applicant is able to demonstrate significant organizational financial need.

** Per 42 U.S.C. 12581a, the Corporation may provide the operational support under this section for a program in an amount that is not more than \$800 per individual enrolled in an

approved national service position, or not more than \$1,000 per such individual if at least 50 percent of the persons enrolled in the program are disadvantaged youth.

ServeOhio reserves the right to 1) treat an applicant that meets the statutory requirements of a Professional Corps as such, whether or not they submitted their application as a professional corps program; and 2) determine whether an applicant has demonstrated inability to effectively operate in the absence of AmeriCorps operating funds.

3. Segal AmeriCorps Education Award

AmeriCorps members who successfully complete a term of service will be eligible for an Education Award from the National Service Trust. The amount of the Education Award is linked to the value of the Pell Grant. A member has up to seven years after their term of service to use the Education Award.

D.6.b. Indirect Costs

Application budgets may include indirect costs. Based on qualifying factors, applicants may either use a Federally approved indirect cost rate or a 10 percent *de minimis* rate of modified total direct costs, or may claim certain costs directly, as outlined in [2 CFR 200.413](#). States, local governments, and Indian Tribes may use previously approved indirect cost allocation plans.

Methods must be applied consistently across all federal awards.

Applicants that have a federal negotiated indirect cost rate or that will be using the 10 percent *de minimis* rate must enter that information in the Organization section in eGrants. However, under section 121(d) of the NCSA and AmeriCorps' regulations at [45 CFR 2521.95](#) and [2540.110](#), no more than five percent of award funds may be used to recover indirect costs on AmeriCorps State and National grants.

The instructions for how to enter the organization's indirect cost rate are located here: [eGrants Indirect Cost Rate User Instructions](#). Applicants should not submit documentation addressing the indirect cost rate agreement via email.

See [the FY23 Ohio AmeriCorps Application Instructions for detailed guidance on indirect cost instructions](#).

D.6.c. Pre-Award Costs

Pre-award costs, when authorized, are allowed only after receiving written approval from ServeOhio.

D.7. Other Submission Requirements

D.7.a. Electronic Application Submission in eGrants

Applicants must submit applications electronically via [eGrants, AmeriCorps' web-based application system](#). ServeOhio recommends that applicants create an eGrants account and begin the application at least three weeks before the deadline. Applicants can draft the application as a Word document, then copy and paste the text into the appropriate eGrants field. The length of the application may differ in eGrants.

The applicant's authorized representative must be the person who submits the application. The authorized representative must use their own eGrants account to sign and submit the application. **A copy of the governing body's authorization for this official representative to sign must be on file in the applicant's office.**

Applicants should contact the AmeriCorps Hotline at (800) 942-2677 or via [eGrants Questions](#) if they have a problem when they create an account, prepare, or submit the application. [AmeriCorps Hotline hours](#) are posted.

Be prepared to provide the application ID, organization's name, and the name of the Notice to which the organization is applying. If the issue cannot be resolved by the deadline, applicants must continue working with the AmeriCorps Hotline to submit via eGrants.

ServeOhio does not accept applications submitted via fax or mail.

D.7.b. Submission of Additional Documents

All documents must be submitted to ServeOhio by the application deadline.

Additional documents required of **ALL** applicants

1. Evaluation briefs, reports, studies. Please refer to the [Evidence Base section](#) and [Mandatory Supplemental Information found here](#) for detailed instructions by evidence tier. If multiple evaluation briefs/reports/studies are submitted by the applicant, the most recent (as measured by the date of completion or publication) will be reviewed first, and any documents submitted beyond the allowable number will not be reviewed.
2. Labor union concurrence (if applicable)
3. All applicants regardless of funding level are required to submit [an Operational and Financial Management Survey \(OFMS\)](#). Please submit the OFMS as a Word document. Forms submitted as a PDF or any other document format may not be accepted.
4. If applicable, a copy of the organization's indirect cost rate agreement
5. If applicable, a match reduction request
6. If applicable, an alternative match schedule request

New applicants, or applicants that have not received an Ohio AmeriCorps grant in the last three years, must submit the following in addition to the above items, as applicable:

1. Organizational Chart that includes the AmeriCorps program
2. [Ohio AmeriCorps Organizational Management Readiness Assessment found on the ServeOhio website.](#)

Recompete applicants who have previously received three or more years of funding for the same project being proposed must submit the following:

1. Evaluation plan. Please use the evaluation plan template found [available on the ServeOhio webpage](#). Evaluation plans are not scored and will not be reviewed until after funding decisions are made.

Recompete applicants who have previously received six or more years of competitive funding for the same project being proposed must submit the following:

1. Evaluation report. Please submit in Microsoft Word. The evaluation report should include a title page with the AmeriCorps grant number for the project that was evaluated, the

name of the project, and the date of completion of the report. If any of this required information is missing, the applicant may not receive credit for meeting their evaluation requirements.

Additional documents must be emailed to mary.cannon@serve.ohio.gov with the following subject line: “Legal Applicant Name” – “Application ID Number.” Emails should include:

- the legal applicant name and its point of contact information
- the application ID number
- a list of documents that are attached to the email by filename, labeling each document type according to the above numbered list
- individually attached files that are clearly labeled, and that include the legal applicant name and application ID number within the file name and heading of each document. To ensure that all required additional documents are considered, please provide each document as a separate single file, labeled appropriately. Please do not send multiple documents in one combined file, and do not send a single document in multiple files.
- If the size of an applicant’s files requires multiple emails, please also include an ordering system in the subject line, such as “(1 of 3)”

Failure to submit the required additional documents, following the email instructions in this section, by the deadline may have a negative effect on the assessment of your application.

Do not submit any items that are not requested in this Notice or Application Instructions. ServeOhio will not review or return them.

D.7.c. Coordination among State Commissions and National Direct Applicants

AmeriCorps expects Commissions and National Direct applicants to consult and coordinate activities at the local level, as specified in [42 U.S.C. § 12583](#). This consultation is designed to ensure the most effective use of national service resources and lead to enhanced coordination. The list of Commissions can be found on the [AmeriCorps.gov State Service Commissions webpage](#). The ServeOhio Commission contact can be reached at mary.cannon@serve.ohio.gov.

To ensure coordination:

National Direct applicants, except Federally recognized Indian Tribes, must:

Before application submission:

- Consult with the Commission of each state and/or territory in which the organization plans to operate and describe this consultation in their applications. Contact the Commissions for details about the consultation process. Provide information that connects the proposed activities to the current State/Territory Service plan and/or State Logic Model.

After Award:

- Provide the Commission with contact information for National Direct programs in the state and/or territory and update the information on an annual basis.
- Participate in the Commissions’ annual needs assessment and training plan development activities, and in the development of its state/territory service plan, as well as appropriate training and other events.

- Include the Commission on the National Direct's mailing/email distribution lists and invite it to appropriate training and other events.

State/Territory Commissions must:

Before application submission:

- Consult in a timely manner with the National Direct applicants, except Indian Tribes, that contact them prior to application submission.

After Award:

- Consider the schedules and needs of National Direct applicants, including Indian Tribes, operating in their states when planning annual events and technical assistance activities.
- Include National Direct programs, including Indian Tribes, in their annual needs assessment and training plan development activities, and in the development of their state/territory service plan.
- Add staff of multi-state programs in their state/territory to their mailing/email distribution lists and invite them to appropriate training and other events.

E. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

E.1. Selection Criteria

Each applicant must describe a project that will deploy AmeriCorps members effectively to solve a significant community problem. ServeOhio urges applicants to submit high quality applications that carefully follow the guidance in this Notice and in the Application Instructions [found here](#). The quality of an application will be an important factor in determining whether an organization will receive funding.

Applications should include a well-designed plan with clear and compelling justifications for receiving the requested funds. ServeOhio staff and reviewers will assess the quality of applications by using the selection criteria described below will assess them accordingly.

Categories/Subcategories
Executive Summary
Program Design
• Theory of Change and Logic Model
• Evidence Tier
• Evidence Quality
• Notice Priority
• Member Experience
Organizational Capability
• Organizational Background and Staffing
• Compliance and Accountability
• Member Supervision
Cost-Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy

E.1.a. Executive Summary:

Please fill in the blanks of these sentences to complete the Executive Summary. Do not deviate from the template below.

The [Name of the organization] will have [Number of] AmeriCorps members who will [service activities the members will be doing] in [the locations the AmeriCorps members will serve]. At the end of the program year, the AmeriCorps members will be responsible for [anticipated outcome of project]. In addition, the AmeriCorps members will leverage [number of leveraged volunteers, if applicable] who will be engaged in [what the leveraged volunteers will be doing.]

The AmeriCorps investment will be matched with \$[amount of projected match], \$[amount of local, state, and Federal Funds] in public funding and \$[amount of non-governmental funds] in private funding.

Fixed-Amount grant applicants (EAP, Full-Cost Fixed, No Cost Slots) should list their Other Revenue (see [Mandatory Supplemental Information found here](#)) because they are not required to provide a specific amount of match, but still raise significant additional resources to operate the program.

E.1.b. Program Design

ServeOhio will consider the quality of the application's response to the criteria below. Do not assume all sub-criteria are of equal value.

1. Theory of Change and Logic Model

The Theory of Change shall address:

- The problem is prevalent and severe in communities where the program plans to serve and has been documented with relevant data.
- The proposed intervention is responsive to the identified community problem.
- The applicant's proposed intervention is clearly articulated including the design, dosage, target population, and roles of AmeriCorps members and (if applicable) leveraged volunteers.
- The applicant's intervention is likely to lead to the outcomes identified in the applicant's Theory of Change.
- The expected outcomes articulated in the application narrative and Logic Model represent meaningful progress in addressing the community problem identified by the applicant.
- The rationale for utilizing AmeriCorps members to deliver the intervention(s) is reasonable.
- The service role of AmeriCorps members will produce significant contributions to existing efforts and help develop additional capacity to address the stated problem.
- If the applicant is submitting a Renewal applicant, or has received Ohio AmeriCorps funding in the last six years, included are details on the program's past performance including member enrollment and retention, compliance challenges and successes, and history of performance measurement success and challenges.
- There is a rationale for setting/determining Target Numbers for each Output and Outcome in the Performance Measure. Rationales and/or justifications are informed by the organization's previous performance data, relevant research or prior program evaluations.

The Logic Model shall depict:

- A summary of the community problem.
- The inputs or resources that are necessary to deliver the intervention, including but not limited to:
 - Number of and/or specific locations or sites in which members will provide services
 - Number of AmeriCorps members who will deliver the intervention
 - Start and End Dates of AmeriCorps service terms
- The core activities that define the intervention or program model that members will implement or deliver, including:
 - The duration of the intervention (e.g., the total number of weeks, sessions or months of the intervention)
 - The dosage of the intervention (e.g., the number of hours per session or sessions per week)
 - The target population for the intervention (e.g., disconnected youth, third graders at a certain reading proficiency level)
- The measurable outputs that result from delivering the intervention (i.e., number of beneficiaries served, types and number of activities conducted, equity gaps closed). If applicable, identify which National Performance Measures will be used as output indicators
- Outcomes that demonstrate changes in knowledge/skill, attitude, behavior, or condition that occur as a result of the intervention. If applicable, identify which National Performance Measures will be used as outcome indicators.

Note: The Logic Model is a visual representation of the applicant's Theory of Change. Programs should include short or medium and long-term outcomes in the Logic Model. Applicants are not required to measure all components of their Theory of Change. The applicant's performance measures should be consistent with the program's Theory of Change and should represent significant program activities.

Applicants should discuss the community need as it relates to the [CDC's Social Vulnerability Index](#).

Applicants should discuss their rationale for determining output and outcome performance measure targets.

Rationales and justifications should be informed by the organization's performance data (e.g., program data observed over time that suggests targets are reasonable), relevant research (e.g. targets documented by organizations running similar programs with similar populations), or prior program evaluation findings.

Applicants with multiple interventions should complete one Logic Model chart (row) which incorporates each intervention. Logic Model content that exceeds three pages will not be reviewed.

2. Evidence Base

The assessment of an applicant's evidence base has two parts. First, the applicant will be assigned to an evidence tier (see the [Mandatory Supplemental Information](#)). Second, the

quality of the applicant's evidence and the degree to which it supports the proposed program design, including program aligned with the priority areas identified above, will be assessed and scored.

Evidence Tier:

An evidence tier will be assessed for each applicant for the purpose of understanding the relative strength of each applicant's evidence base and the likelihood that the proposed intervention will lead to outcomes identified in the Logic Model.²

Applicants who have outcome or impact evaluation reports of the same intervention described in the application (see [Mandatory Supplemental Information found here](#) for a definition of "same intervention") may submit up to 2 of those reports, plus (if applicable) the evaluation report from their last three-year grant cycle, to qualify for the Preliminary, Moderate, or Strong evidence tier.

In order to qualify for consideration, the intervention evaluated in the submitted report(s) must match the intervention proposed by the applicant in the following areas, all of which must be clearly described in the Program Design and Logic Model sections of the application:

- Characteristics of the beneficiary population, including evidence of current or historic inequities facing the population;
- Characteristics of the population delivering the intervention;
- Dosage (frequency and duration) and design of the intervention, including all key components and activities;
- The context in which the intervention is delivered; and
- Outcome of the intervention.

Submitted reports that do not sufficiently match the intervention proposed by the applicant in all of these areas will not be considered applicable and will not be reviewed or receive any points. Submission of additional documents that are not consistent with the guidance and requirements described in the Notice (e.g., advocacy pieces, policy briefs, other narratives that are not research studies or program evaluations) will not be reviewed.

In the Evidence Tier section of the application narrative, applicants must (1) summarize the study design and key findings of any outcome or impact evaluation report(s) submitted and (2) describe any other evidence that supports their program, including past performance measure data and/or other research studies that inform their program design. Applicants who submit evaluation reports for consideration must also describe in the Evidence Base section of the application narrative how the intervention described in the submitted reports is

² In 2022, the evidence tiers of successful AmeriCorps State and National applicants that were competing were as follows: Strong 28%, Moderate 15%, Preliminary 25%, and Pre-Preliminary 32%. As these figures indicate, AmeriCorps values and funds programs at all points along the evidence continuum and expects programs to progress along the evidence continuum over time. Thus, do not be deterred from applying for funding due to your current evidence level.

the same as the intervention described in the application (see Mandatory Supplemental Information found [here](#).)

Applicants should provide citations for the studies they describe, if applicable; however, reviewers will not review any documents external to the application other than evaluation report(s) submitted in accordance with the Notice instructions.

Applicants must meet all requirements of an evidence tier in order to be considered for that tier.

If the evaluation reports submitted by the applicant do not meet the definitions in the Mandatory Supplemental Information, the applicant may be considered for a lower evidence tier.

Evidence Quality

After the applicant's evidence tier has been assessed, the quality of the applicant's evidence and the extent to which it supports the proposed program design will be assessed and scored.

Applicants who are assessed as being in the Preliminary, Moderate, or Strong evidence tiers, reviewers will score the submitted evaluation reports using the following standards:

- The submitted reports are of satisfactory methodological quality and rigor for the type of evaluation conducted (e.g., adequate sample size and statistical power, internal and/or external validity, appropriate use of control or comparison groups, etc.);
- The submitted reports describe evaluations that were conducted relatively recently, preferably within the last six years;
- The submitted reports show a meaningful and significant positive effect on program beneficiaries in at least one key outcome of interest.

Applicants that are assessed as being in the Pre-Preliminary evidence tier, ServeOhio expects:

- The applicant uses relevant evidence, including past performance measure data and/or cited research studies, to inform their proposed program design;
- The described evidence is relatively recent, preferably from the last six years;
- The evidence described by the applicant indicates a meaningful positive effect on program beneficiaries in at least one key outcome of interest.³

3. Notice Priority

- The applicant proposed program fits within one or more of the ServeOhio funding priorities and meets all of the requirements within that bullet/section as outlined in the A.2 Funding Priorities section and more fully described in the Mandatory Supplemental Information [found here](#).

³ Applicants assessed in the Pre-Preliminary evidence tier that do not provide adequate responses to the Evidence Quality standards will not meet the threshold requirements for this Notice and will not be considered for funding.

4. Member Experience

- AmeriCorps members will have opportunities to develop as leaders.
- AmeriCorps members will gain skills as a result of their training and service that can be utilized and will be valued by future employers after their service term is completed.
- Description of the demographics of the community served and plans to recruit AmeriCorps members from geographic or demographic communities in which the program operates.
- The program or applicant has a plan to educate members about their local communities and the need addressed by their service.
- The program incorporates a member orientation and training plan that includes information about AmeriCorps, program goals and service expectations.
- The program has plans to connect members, virtually and/or in-person, throughout the service year for shared learning and professional development opportunities.
- Description of how the organization will ensure its project engages a diverse and inclusive group of members.
- The applicant's organization and/or program has a diversity, equity, and inclusion plan or seeks to diversity its staff and board and create a supportive and safe environment as well ensure that its programming is culturally and community appropriate.

E.1.c. Organizational Capability

ServeOhio will consider the quality of the application's response to the following criteria below. Do not assume all sub-criteria are of equal value.

1. Organizational Background and Staffing

- The organization details the roles, responsibilities, and structure of the staff that will be implementing, providing oversight, and monitoring the program. Included are the staff positions listed in the budget narrative.
- The leadership and staff of the organization has the same lived experience as the beneficiary population and/or community being served.
- The applicant's definitions of diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility demonstrate the organization is engaged in related to diversity, equity, and inclusion. This can include the inclusion of diversity on the Board of Directors, agency staff and leadership, and/or volunteers.
- If the budget does not include .5FTE staff allocated to the grant, include a rationale to support this decision.
- If a new applicant is requested a Full Cost Fixed Amount grant, include the following:
 - The organization's experience managing a federal award
 - Any prior experience with AmeriCorps grants and/or programs
 - Detail the sources of match and/or funding plan
 - Detail how the organization has the fiscal capacity to manage an AmeriCorps grant and federal requirements.

2. Compliance and Accountability

- The organization has a monitoring and oversight plan to prevent and detect non-compliance and enforce compliance with AmeriCorps rules and regulations including

those related to prohibited activities and criminal history checks at the grantee, subgrantee (if applicable), and service site locations.

- The extent to which the organization has an effective mechanism in place to report, without delay, any suspected criminal activity, waste, fraud, and/or abuse to both the AmeriCorps Office of Inspector General and AmeriCorps and a plan for training staff and participants on these reporting protocols.
- The extent to which the organization has sufficient policies, procedures, and controls in place to prevent, detect, and mitigate the risk of fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement, this can include an assessment of appropriate segregation of duties, internal oversight activities, measures to prevent timekeeping fraud, etc.
- The organization has effective protocols and plan to train staff and members how to report, without delay, any suspected activity, waste, fraud, and/or abuse to the AmeriCorps Office of Inspector General, AmeriCorps and ServeOhio.

3. Member Supervision

- AmeriCorps members will receive sufficient guidance and support from their supervisor to provide effective service.
- The program has a plan to provide members with ongoing and consistent access to direct supervisors and/or program staff.
- AmeriCorps supervisors will be adequately trained/prepared to follow AmeriCorps and program regulations, priorities and expectations.
- The program has plans to maintain communications with and among supervisors during the program year.

E.1.d. Cost-Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy

ServeOhio will assess the quality of the application's budget to the following criteria below. Do not assume all sub-criteria are of equal value.

These criteria will be assessed based on the budget submitted. Do not include narrative in the narrative box except for "See budget".

1. Cost Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy

- Budget complies with the Application Instructions found [here](#) document (Cost Reimbursement Applicants: See Appendix B and C; Fixed Amount Applicants: See Appendix D and E)
- Cost Reimbursement applicant meets match requirements or Fixed Amount applicant proposes sufficient additional revenue to adequately support the program. Applicant identifies sources in the Source of Funds section of the budget
- The cost per MSY is equal to or less than the maximum cost per MSY (See Section D.6.a.2).

Proposed budgets that contain MSY costs that exceed the maximum cost per MSY and/or less than required match will be considered unresponsive to the application criteria.

Cost reimbursement applicants: Indicate the amount of requested match replacement in the Source of Funds section of the budget. See definition of match replacement in the [Mandatory Supplemental Information found here](#).

E.1.e. Evaluation Plan

If the applicant has previously received three or more years of competitive funding for the same project being proposed ([see the Mandatory Supplemental Information](#) for the AmeriCorps definition of “same project”), the applicant must submit an evaluation plan as an attachment (see the [D.7.b Submission of Additional Documents section](#) for more information). If the applicant has previously received six or more years of competitive funding for the same project being proposed, the applicant must submit both an evaluation plan and an evaluation report as attachments.

Applicants should use the evaluation plan template [found here available on the ServeOhio webpage](#) to craft their evaluation plans. The template document provides detailed information about the AmeriCorps evaluation requirements ([45 CFR 2522.700-710](#)) and specifies the information that must be provided for the evaluation plan to be approved by AmeriCorps. The evaluation plan will not be scored and will not be reviewed until after funding decisions have been made.

All applicants should enter “N/A” in the “Evaluation Summary or Plan” field of the Narrative. Any other text entered in this field will not be reviewed.

E.1.f. Amendment Justification

Enter N/A. This field will be used if the applicant is awarded a grant and needs to amend it.

E.1.g. Clarification Information

Enter N/A.

E.1.h. Continuation Changes

Enter N/A. This field will be used to enter changes in the application narratives in continuation requests.

E.2. Review and Selection Process

ServeOhio will engage several staff and peer reviewers to assess and provide input on the eligible applications.

ServeOhio peer reviewers will review and assess the program design and organizational capability sections detailed in the Notice. All reviewers will be screened for conflicts of interest.

The review and selection process is intended to produce a diversified set of high-quality programs that represent the priorities and strategic considerations described in this Notice.

E.2.a. Initial Application Compliance and Eligibility Review

ServeOhio will conduct an initial Compliance and Eligibility Review to determine if an application meets the eligibility requirements published in this Notice and advances to the next stage of the review process.

An application is compliant if the applicant:

- is an eligible organization
- is eligible to submit directly to ServeOhio

- applied by the deadline
- submits all required application elements and additional documentation
- follows the application instructions and budget guidelines

Reviewing for eligibility is intended to ensure that only those applications that are eligible for award are further reviewed. However, determinations of eligibility can take place at any point during the application review and selection process. Applicants that are determined to be ineligible will not receive an award.

E.2.b. Application Review

External Review

ServeOhio peer reviewers will assess applications based on the Program Design and Organizational Capability sections only. All reviewers will be screened for conflicts of interest.

Internal Review

Each application will be assessed by several ServeOhio staff. ServeOhio staff will evaluate the application using the application review criteria, past performance of current or previous awardees, consider the comprehensiveness and feasibility of the application, and assess the priorities and strategic considerations detailed in the Notice.

E.2.c. Applicant Clarification

ServeOhio may ask an applicant for clarifying information before notification of competition results.

Not all applications are clarified. A request for clarification from ServeOhio does not guarantee an award or recommendation for consideration of an award. Applicants may be recommended for funding even if they are not asked for clarifying information.

An applicant's failure to respond to a request for clarification adequately and in a timely manner may result in the removal of its application from the award process.

The Clarification Period is scheduled from **April 24, 2023 -May 5, 2023**.

E.2.d. Pre-Award Risk Assessment

ServeOhio staff will assess the risks posed by each applicant to determine an applicant's ability to manage Federal Funds. This evaluation is in addition to those about the applicant's eligibility and the quality of its application on the basis of the [Selection Criteria \(E.1\)](#). Results from this assessment will inform funding decisions. If ServeOhio determines that an award will be made to an applicant with assessed risks, special conditions that correspond to the degree of assessed risk may be applied to the award. Additionally, if ServeOhio concludes that the reasons for applicants having poor risk assessment are not likely to be mitigated, those applications may not be selected for funding.

In assessing risks, ServeOhio may consider the following criteria:

1. Due Diligence, including:

- Federal debt delinquency
- suspension and debarment
- information available through Office of Management and Budget (OMB)- designated repositories of government-wide eligibility qualification or financial integrity

information, such as:

- [Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System \(FAPIIS\)](#)
 - [U.S. Treasury Bureau of Fiscal Services](#)
 - [System for Award Management \(SAM\)](#)
 - "Do Not Pay"
 - reports and findings from single audits performed under Uniform Administrative Guidance and findings of any other available audits or investigations
 - IRS Tax Form 990
 - [Oversight.gov](#)
 - Public Litigation Records
2. Operational and Financial Management, including:
- financial stability
 - [Operational and Financial Management Survey \(OFMS\)](#)
3. Past Performance, including:
- an applicant's record in managing previous AmeriCorps awards, cooperative agreements, or procurement awards, including:
 - timeliness of compliance with applicable reporting requirements
 - conformance to the terms and conditions of previous Federal awards
 - applicant's ability to effectively implement statutory, regulatory, or other requirements imposed on award recipients
 - timely closeout of other awards
 - meeting matching requirements
 - the extent to which any previously awarded amounts will be expended prior to future awards
 - national service criminal history check (NSCHC) compliance. See section [F.2.d. National Criminal History Check Requirements](#) and the [NSCHC webpage](#) for more information
4. Other Programmatic Risks, including:
- publicly available information, including from the applicant organization's website

E.2.e. Consideration of Integrity and Performance System Information

Prior to making any award that exceeds the \$250,000, ServeOhio is required to review and consider any information about the applicant that is in the designated integrity and performance system accessible through SAM (currently FAPIIS) (See [41 U.S.C. §2313](#)). Additionally, ServeOhio may expand upon these requirements and use its discretion to review and consider information about any applicant receiving an award, including those under \$250,000.

Any applicant, at its option, may review information in the designated integrity and performance systems accessible through FAPIIS and comment on any information about itself that a Federal awarding agency previously entered and is currently in the designated integrity and performance system accessible through FAPIIS.

ServeOhio may consider comments by any applicant, in addition to the other information in the designated integrity and performance system, in making a judgment about the applicant's integrity, business ethics, and record of performance under federal awards when completing its review of risk posed by the applicant under the [E.2.d. Risk Assessment Evaluation section](#) of this Notice.

E.2.f. Selection for Funding

The review and selection process are designed to:

- identify how well eligible applications are aligned with the [application selection criteria \(E.1\)](#)
- build a diversified portfolio based on the following strategic considerations:
 - ServeOhio Funding Priorities (See [Section A.2. Funding Priorities](#))
 - meaningful representation of
 - rural communities
 - innovative community strategies

ServeOhio will assess an applicant's strategic considerations. Applicants must check the relevant boxes in the Program Information tab in AmeriCorps' web-based management system. Applicants should only check the boxes if the strategic consideration is a significant and intentional part of their program design and if implementation strategies are described in the application.

ServeOhio reserves the right to prioritize funding existing awards over making new awards.

ServeOhio reserves the right to award applications in an amount other than at the requested level of funding.

ServeOhio reserves the right to adjust or make changes to the review process, if unforeseen challenges or urgent circumstances make it impossible, impracticable, or inefficient to conduct the review process as planned. Any such adjustments or changes will not affect the [selection criteria \(E.1.\)](#) that will be used to assess applications.

E.3. Feedback to Applicants

Applicants not selected for funding will receive feedback from the review of the original application and will not reflection information provided during clarification.

E.4. Transparency in Grantmaking

ServeOhio committed to transparency in grant-making. Executive Summaries of successful applicant will be made available on the ServeOhio website.

F. FEDERAL AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

F.1. Federal Award Notices

ServeOhio will make awards following the selection announcement. ServeOhio anticipates announcing the results of this funding opportunity by mid-May 2023 contingent on the availability of congressional appropriations. All applicants, successful or not, will be notified of funding decisions via email.

Notification of an award is not an authorization to begin activities. The Notice of Grant Award signed by the Office of Grant Administration is the authorizing document. An awardee may not expend Federal Funds until the start of the Period of Performance identified on the Notice of Grant Award.

F.2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

F.2.a. Uniform Guidance

All awards made under this Notice will be subject to the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance), in [2 CFR Parts 200](#) and [2205](#).

F.2.b. Requests for Monitoring or Payment Integrity Information

AmeriCorps will request documentation from award recipients in order to monitor the grantee and award to ensure compliance with legal requirements, including the [Payment Integrity Information Act of 2019](#). Failure to make timely responses to these requests may result in award funds being placed on manual hold, reimbursement only status, or other remedies may be applied as appropriate.

F.2.c. AmeriCorps Terms and Conditions

All awards made under this Notice will be subject to the FY 2023 AmeriCorps General Terms and Conditions, and the FY 2023 Program-Specific Terms and Conditions for the particular program (when applicable), and the FY 2023 ServeOhio Supplementary Terms and Conditions. These Terms and Conditions contain detailed, mandatory compliance and reporting requirements. Current versions of the AmeriCorps General and Program-Specific Terms and Conditions for each of its programs is available on the [AmeriCorps Manage Your Grant webpage](#). Current [ServeOhio Terms and Conditions can be found here](#).

F.2.d. National Service Criminal History Check Requirements

The National Service Criminal History Check (NSCHC) is a specific screening procedure established by law to protect the beneficiaries of national service. We encourage grantees to minimize barriers to service without putting their program beneficiaries at genuine risk.

- In general, award recipients and subrecipients must conduct an NSCHC for AmeriCorps members, AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers, and staff funded under, or whose salary is reflected as match on, the award.
- AmeriCorps strongly encourages applicants to review the regulations and additional guidance to fully understand how to comply with the requirements. See the [NSCHC regulations and guidance](#). AmeriCorps also strongly encourages award recipients to utilize the two AmeriCorps-approved vendors to conduct the required NSCHCs.
- Failure to conduct a compliant NSCHC may result in significant disallowed costs.
- The cost of conducting NSCHC is an allowable expense under the award and the individual subject to the NSCHC may not be required to cover the cost without being reimbursed.

An NSCHC consists of a check of the:

1. National Sex Offender Public website through [NSOPW.gov](https://www.nsopw.gov) (nationwide check);
2. State criminal history record repository or agency-designated alternative for the individual's State of residence *and* State of service; and
3. Fingerprint-based check of the FBI criminal history record database through the State criminal history record repository or agency-approved vendor.

All checks must be conducted, reviewed, and an eligibility determination made **before** the individual begins work or service.

An individual is not eligible to serve or work in a position subject to the NSCHC requirements if:

- the individual refuses to consent to a criminal history check;
- makes a false statement in connection with a criminal history check;
- is registered, or is required to be registered, on a state sex offender registry or the National Sex Offender Registry; or
- has been convicted of murder.

See [45 CFR 2540.200– 2540.207](#) and [National Service Criminal History Check Resources](#) for complete information and FAQs.

F.2.e. Official Guidance

All AmeriCorps active Guidance is available on the [agency's Guidance webpage](#). The contents of these documents do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public in any way unless incorporated into a contract or grant agreement. These documents are intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies.

F.3. Use of Material

To ensure that materials generated with AmeriCorps funding are available to the public and readily accessible to recipients and non-recipients, AmeriCorps reserves a royalty-free, nonexclusive, and irrevocable right to obtain, use, modify, reproduce, publish, or disseminate publications and materials produced under the award, including data, and to authorize others to do so ([2 CFR §200.315](#)).

F.4. Reporting

Recipients and subrecipients are required to submit a variety of reports that are due at specific times during the life cycle of an award. All reports must be accurate, complete, and submitted on time.

Cost reimbursement subrecipients are required to provide progress reports and financial reports and an internal or external evaluation report as required by the AmeriCorps regulations [45 CFR 2522.500-2522.540 and 2522.700-2522.740](#). Final financial and progress reports are due 30 days after the end of the agreement.

Fixed Amount grantees are required to provide progress reports and an internal or external evaluation report.

Award recipients will be required to report at [Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act Subaward Reporting System \(FSRS\)](#) on all subawards over \$30,000, and may be required to report on executive compensation for the recipient organization and its subrecipients. Recipients and subrecipients must have the necessary systems in place to collect and report this information. See [2 CFR Part 170](#) for more information and to determine how these requirements apply.

Once the grant is subawarded, recipients will be expected to have in place data collection and data management policies, processes, and practices that provide assurance that they are reporting high quality performance measure data. At a minimum, subrecipients should have policies, processes, and practices that address the following five aspects of data quality for themselves and for subrecipients (if applicable):

- data measures what it intends to measure
- data reported is complete
- grantee collects data in a consistent manner
- grantee takes steps to correct data errors
- grantee actively reviews data for accuracy prior to submission.

Failure to submit accurate, complete, and timely required reports may affect the recipient's ability to secure future AmeriCorps funding.

F.5. Continuation Funding Information and Requirements

Organizations that have current AmeriCorps State awards that will be in program Year 2 or Year 3 in FY 2023 are considered continuation applicants. Continuation applicants must submit an application in order to be eligible to receive funding for the FY 2023 program year.

Continuation applicants must follow the requirements for continuation application content as outlined [in the FY23 Ohio AmeriCorps Application Instructions](#).

Requests by existing continuation applicants for increases in the level of funding or number of positions will be assessed using the [E. 1 selection criteria](#) published in this Notice.

Continuation application review will also be based on progress reports, the federal financial report, evaluation plans, as well as ServeOhio staff's knowledge of the grant program. To be approved for continuation funding, recipients must demonstrate satisfactory performance with respect to key program goals and requirements, as well as compliance with the terms and conditions of the grant.

ServeOhio reserves the right to make recommendations for and award applications in an amount less than the requested level of funding and will document the rationale for doing so.

G. FEDERAL AWARDING AND STATE AGENCY CONTACTS

This Notice and application materials are available at www.serveohio.org.

ServeOhio can be reached at:

Director of AmeriCorps
30 East Broad Street, Suite 2487
Columbus, Ohio 43215

For more information or to contact AmeriCorps, call (202) 606-7508 or email americorpsgrants@cns.gov. AmeriCorps also offers [live text chat](#).

For technical questions and problems with the eGrants system, call the AmeriCorps Hotline at (800) 942-2677. AmeriCorps Hotline hours are also posted. Be prepared to provide the application ID, organization's name, and the name of the Notice to which the organization is applying.

H. OTHER INFORMATION

H.1. Technical Assistance

ServeOhio will host technical assistance options to answer questions about the funding opportunity and eGrants. ServeOhio strongly encourages all applicants to participate in these sessions.

ServeOhio's technical assistance options can [be found here](#).

H.2. Re-Focusing of Funding

ServeOhio reserves the right to re-focus program dollars under this Notice in the event of disaster or other compelling needs.

I. IMPORTANT NOTICES

Public Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for collection of information under this Notice of Funding is estimated to average six hours per submission, including reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing the application and reporting forms. AmeriCorps informs people who may respond to this Notice of Funding that they are not required to respond unless the OMB control number and expiration date are current valid. (See [5 C.F.R. 1320.5\(b\)\(2\)\(i\)](#).) This collection is approved under OMB Control #: 3045-0047, Application Instructions, State and National Competitive, New and Continuation, Expiration Date: September 30, 2023.

Privacy Act Statement: The Privacy Act of 1974 ([5 U.S.C §552a](#)) requires that we notify you that the information requested under this Notice of Funding is collected pursuant to [42 U.S.C. §§12592](#) and 12615 of the [National and Community Service Act of 1990 as amended](#), and [42 U.S.C. §4953](#) of the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973 as amended.

- Purposes and Uses - The information requested is collected for the purposes of reviewing grant applications and granting funding requests. Routine uses may include disclosure of the information to Federal, state, or local agencies pursuant to lawfully authorized requests. In some programs, the information may also be provided to Federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to determine the existence of any prior criminal convictions. The information may also be provided to appropriate Federal agencies and contractors that have a need to know the information for the purpose of assisting the government to respond to a suspected or confirmed breach of the security or confidentiality or information maintained in this system of records, and the information disclosed is relevant and unnecessary for the assistance.

- Effects of Nondisclosure - The information requested is voluntary; however, to be a recipient of this grant program, disclosure of personal or sensitive information is required to receive federal benefits.

APPENDIX I - AmeriCorps Focus Areas

AmeriCorps Focus Areas

[The National and Community Service Act of 1990, as amended by the Serve America Act](#), emphasizes measuring the impact of service and focusing on a core set of issue areas. In order to carry out Congress's intent and to maximize the impact of investment in national service, and to achieve the goals laid out in our [Strategic Plan \(2022-2026\)](#), AmeriCorps has the following Focus Areas:

Disaster Services

Helping individuals and communities prepare for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate the effects of disasters and increase community resiliency.

Economic Opportunity

Improving the economic well-being and security of underserved individuals.

Education

Improving educational outcomes for underserved people, especially children. AmeriCorps is particularly interested in program designs that support youth engagement and service learning as strategies to achieve high educational outcomes.

Environmental Stewardship

Supporting communities to become more resilient through measures that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, conserve land and water, increase renewable energy use and improve at-risk ecosystems, especially in underserved households and communities.

Healthy Futures

Supporting for health needs within communities, including mitigating the impacts of COVID-19 and other public health crises, access to care, aging in place, and addressing childhood obesity, especially in underserved communities.

Veterans and Military Families

Improving the quality of life of veterans, military families, caregivers, and survivors.